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News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gives Assistance Grant to Nestucca Rural Fire District

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced it will give a \$5000 Rural Fire Assistance grant to Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District. The grant will enable the District to purchase additional equipment and should help to increase coordination between local, State and Federal firefighting resources.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide this grant to Nestucca Rural Fire District, and look forward to the continuation of a good relationship with the district," said Roy W. Lowe, Project Leader for the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, headquartered in Newport. "The Nestucca Rural Fire District assisted us in the past with removal of a dilapidated structure on Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge through the Burn to Learn program," Lowe said.

Purchases made through this grant will include wildland personal protective equipment for firefighters as well as supplies and materials associated with wildland firefighting activities. Fire Chief Royce Fletcher will coordinate the purchases under an agreement with the Oregon Coast Complex office, which oversees the management of six refuges along the Oregon coast including Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Deputy Project Leader Rebecca Chuck will work with Chief Fletcher to administer the agreement.

The Rural Fire Assistance Grant program is a component of the National Fire Plan and is intended to enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural fire districts by providing assistance in training, equipment purchase, and prevention activities on a cost share basis. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests funds to issue these grants in areas where National Wildlife Refuges are adjacent to lands under the jurisdiction of Rural Fire Protection Districts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The

Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

NOTE: This news release and others can be viewed on the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Regional home page at <http://pacific.fws.gov> or the Service's National home page at: <http://news.fws.gov/>